

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

ARPA/DOD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, FR, CT, US

SUBJECT: US SEISMOLOGIST CONTACT WITH ORSTOM

1. MR. JOHN PETERSON OF THE US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY'S OFFICE
OF EARTHQUAKE STUDIES WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE OFFICE DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE
OUTRE-MER (ORSTOM, 24 RUE BAYARD, PARIS 75008; TELE:
225-3152) TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE USGS
AND ORSTOM IN ADDING INSTRUMENTATION TO THE SEISMOGRAPHIC
FACILITIES OPERATED BY ORSTOM AT BANGUI IN THE CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC. THE PURPOSE OF MR. PETERSON'S VISIT IS
TO OBTAIN TECHNICAL INFORMATION WHICH COULD LEAD TO A
FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN US, ORSTOM, AND THE CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONCERNING THE OPERATION AND DISPOSITION
OF SEISMOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT. THE INSTRUMENTATION WOULD BE
PART OF THE SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORY (SRO) PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY THE DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
(ARPA) AND BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE USGS. MR. PETERSON
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WILL BE IN PARIS DURING 5-6 AUGUST 1976. ARPA WOULD

APPRECIATE EMBASSY CONTACTING ORSTOM REPRESENTATIVES AND ADVISING IF MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED.

2. BACKGROUND - THE SRO PROGRAM, FUNDED AND DIRECTED BY ARPA THROUGH THE US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IS DESIGNED TO

PROVIDE AN IMPROVED WORLDWIDE DATA BASE FOR RESEARCH IN PROBLEMS OF IDENTIFICATION OF SEISMIC EVENTS. THIS RESEARCH SERVES AS AN AID IN DEVELOPING THE US CAPABILITY TO MONITOR UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS; HOWEVER, THE SRO PROJECT IS NOT PART OF ANY OPERATIONAL SURVEILLANCE NETWORK OR SYSTEM. THE SRO PROJECT INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF IMPROVED SENSORS AND DIGITAL SYSTEMS FOR RECORDING SHORT-PERIOD AND LONG-PERIOD SEISMIC WAVES. THE DATA FROM THESE SITES IS UNCLASSIFIED AND IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL SEISMOLOGISTS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES. THE ADVANTAGES TO COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE SRO PROJECT ARE TRAINING IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MODERN ELECTRONIC SENSING AND RECORDING EQUIPMENT, ACCESS TO DIGITAL AND ANALOGUE SEISMIC DATA FOR LOCAL AND TELESEISMIC STUDIES FROM INSTRUMENTS OF HIGH SENSITIVITY, AND EVENTUAL TITLE TO SEISMIC SENSING EQUIPMENT. PRESENTLY 13 SRO SITES ARE PLANNED. COUNTRIES THAT HAVE FORMALLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM THIS FAR ARE COLUMBIA, TURKEY, IRAN, INDIA, TAIWAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND PAKISTAN. SPECIFIC DETAILS OF ANY ASPECT OF THE SRO PROGRAM CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH MR. PETERSON.

ROBINSON

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